Department of State

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INFO SAL 01, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04,
CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 20, IO 21, SAH 03, AID 30, NIC 01, RSR 01,
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R 210715Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9289
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4639
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 1166
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2820

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2/11/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D EN T I A L SECHJAN 2 OF 2 SAIGON 9171

B. NGUYEN DUC GIANG IS THE YOUTHFUL PRINCIPAL OF THE NGUYEN HUE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN TUY HOA. HE GRADUATED FROM HUE UNIVERSITY IN 1962. A NOMINAL BUDDHIST, GIANG IS WELL REGARDED. ALTHOUGH NO RELIGIOUS GROUP HAS OFFICIALLY ENDORSED HIM (THE UBA TURNED HIM DOWN) GIANG WILL RECEIVE SOME BUDDHIST AND CATHOLIC VOTES, BUT HIS MAIN BASIS OF SUPPORT WILL BE TEACHERS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS WHO HAVE PLEDGED TO WORK FOR HIM. GIANG CLAIMS THAT HE WAS APPROACHED BY A SAIGON REPRESENTATIVE OF SENATOR TRAN VAN DON WHO ASKED IF GIANG WANTED DON'S ENDORSEMENT. GIANG SAYS

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THAT HE TURNED THE OFFER DOWN BECAUSE HE PREFERRED TO WIN ON HIS OWN. WHILE GIANG IS WELL KNOWN IN TUY HOA, THE PROVINCE CAPITAL, AND HAS A PHALANX OF STUDENTS CAMPAIGNING FOR HIM THERE AND IN THE NEARBY REFUGEE CAMPS, HE IS UNKNOWN IN THE

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COUNTRYSIDE. TO REMEDY THIS DEFICIENCY HE HAS CONCENTRATED MOST OF HIS CAMPAIGNING IN THE RURAL AREAS. THE FEDERATION OF PRIMARY TEACHERS WHICH IS BACKING HIM WILL BE A KEY FACTOR IN HELPING HIM TO PICK UP THE SUPPORT THERE HE NEEDS TO WIN. IF ELECTED, GIANG PLANS TO FORM AN ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER YOUNG DEPUTIES TO PUSH FOR AN END TO CORRUPTION, TO BOLSTER SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND TO DEVELOP VOCATIONAL TRAINING AIMED AT IMPROVING THE RURAL ECONOMY.

C. CAO VAN CHIEU, A UNIVERSITY OF DALAT PROFESSOR, IS A CANDIDATE WORTHY OF NOTE. LAST YEAR HE HEADED A LIST FOR

THE CA FROM PHU YEN WHICH WAS LATER DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE HIS RUNNING MATE, PHAM NGOC DU, ALLEGEDLY HAS VC CONNECTIONS.

b-1
2d

[redacted] CHIEU, A FORMER HEAD

OF VIET NAM PRESS IN PARIS (1951-55), REPRESENTED PHU YEN'S TUY AN AND SONG CAU DISTRICTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM 1958-63. HE IS APPARENTLY REMEMBERED FOR A DAM BUILT IN TUY AN DISTRICT DURING HIS TENURE. CHIEU, ALTHOUGH NOT HIMSELF A CATHOLIC, WILL RECEIVE ENTHUSIASTIC LOCAL CATHOLIC SUPPORT.

D. RETIRED CATHOLIC COL. NGUYEN THE NHU WILL ALSO RECEIVE CATHOLIC VOTES. (IN PHU YEN ABOUT 8,000 OF 116,000 REGISTERED VOTERS ARE CATHOLIC.) NHU HAS NEVER LIVED IN PHU YEN AND IS CONSEQUENTLY UNKNOWN. NHU WAS FORCIBLY RETIRED FROM THE ARMY IN 1963 FOR HAVING DIEMIST CONNECTIONS, HIS LAST POST BEING COMMANDER OF THE SECOND LOGISTICAL COMMAND IN NHA TRANG. HE HAS SPENT HIS RETIREMENT IN NHA TRANG WHERE HE HAS BEEN AN ADVISOR TO THE KHANH HOA CATHOLIC CITIZENS BLOC. WITH ONLY THE SMALL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TO BACK HIM, NHU'S CHANCES ARE SLIM UNLESS THE PROVINCE CHIEF, WHO REPORTEDLY SUPPORTS HIM, WEIGHS IN HEAVILY.

E. DANG QUANG MINH, A PROMINENT LOCAL CAO DAI LAYMAN,

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WILL RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL CAO DAO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION WHICH CAN MUSTER ABOUT 5,000 VOTES. IN 1966 MINH WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL CA CANDIDATE ON THE CAO DAI LIST OF VO THUONG KINH. KINH HIMSELF WAS ELECTED BUT IS NOT RUNNING THIS YEAR. IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, MINH REPRESENTED PHAN KHAC SUU IN KHANH HOA. MINH HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING WELL KNOWN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, ESPECIALLY HIS BIRTHPLACE, HIEU XUONG DISTRICT, BUT IS FAULTED BY OTHER CANDIDATES FOR A LACK OF FORMAL EDUCATION.

F. TWO OTHER CAO DAI ARE RUNNING, BUI TRONG LUAT, AN RD CADRE TEAM INSPECTOR, AND VO THANH KHIET, PHAN KHAC SUU'S CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE IN PHU YEN. LUAT HAS THE BACK OF THE CAO DAI ASSOCIATED VIET NAM PHUC QUOC HOI FACTION, BUT OF THE THREE CAO DAI MINH IS GIVEN THE BEST CHANCE.

G. NGUYEN DAM AND NGUYEN SAN, BOTH NATIVES OF PHU YE ON OLARE THE UBA CANDIDATES. DAM, THE YOUNGER AND MORE QUALIFIED OF THE TWO, IS A PROFESSOR AT NGUYEN HUE HIGH SCHOOL IN TUY HOA. LAST YEAR DAM WAS A CANDIDATE ON DIEU'S CA LIST WHICH WITHDREW AT THE LAST MOMENT AT THE BEHEST OF UBA.

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H. NGUYEN SAN, MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, IS AN ACTIVE BUDDHIST LAYMAN AND CURRENTLY TREASURER OF THE PROVINCIAL UBA. HIS MAIN INTERESTS ARE SAID TO BE MORE ALONG RELIGIOUS THAN POLITICAL LINES. NEVERTHELESS, WITH THE BUDDHIST ORGANIZATION BEHIND HIM, SAN IS A STRONG CONTENDER.

I. YOUTHFUL DO THIEN DUC, PRESENTLY AN OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS IN SAIGON, WORKED IN PHU YEN AS FINANCE CHIEF FROM 1963-65. HE IS WELL REGARDED. HIS PRINCIPAL ALLY IN THE CAMPAIGN IS NGUYEN BA THANG, DEPUTY FOR ADMINISTRATION IN HIEU XUONG DISTRICT, WHO WAS A CLASSMATE OF DUC'S AT THE

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION.

J. HUYNH TO WILL BE THE SINH TON FACTION DAI VIET CANDIDATE FOR THE LOWER HOUSE. WHILE NOT A MEMBER OF THE PARTY, TO IS MARRIED TO THE DAUGHTER OF DAI VIET PATRIARCH TRUONG BOI HOANG, WHOSE SON TRUONG ANH WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE DAI VIET PARTY IN THE LATE 1930S. TO, A MILD MANNERED MAN, RUNS A ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL IN TUY HOA. HE WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL TAN DAI VIET PARTY WHICH HAS NO

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CANDIDATES OF ITS OWN. HE POSSIBLY MAY RECEIVE SOME VNQDD SUPPORT SINCE ONE OF THE TWO VNQDD CANDIDATES, NGUYEN THAI MACH, HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

K. THE OTHER VNQDD CANDIDATE STILL IN THE RACE IS PHAM CAO, WHO WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL CA CANDIDATE LAST YEAR. CAO LED A VNQDD UNIT IN THE WAR AGAINST THE FRENCH. HE IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL VIETNAM VNQDD (KY BO) FACTION.

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